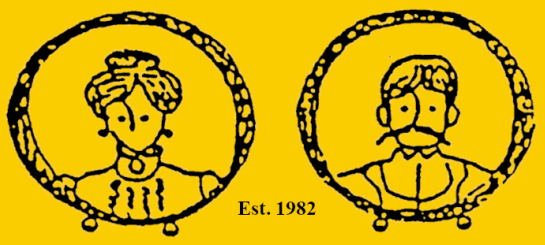
FAMILY FOOTSTEPS



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Comal County Genealogy Society
P.O. Box ~~310160~~ 310190 New Braunfels, Texas 78131-~~0160~~ 0190

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Greetings

Fall is finally here and hopefully we get a break from all the hot weather. We mostly took the summer off, but managed to squeeze in field trips to the Alamo in San Antonio and the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin. And we once again had our annual Picnic in September that was well attended. We hope to plan the 2027 field trips further in advance. So if you have a suggestion, please let us know at Footsteps@ccgstexas.org.

In October, we have Joe Grist giving his first hand account of the founding of Wurstfest. And in November we have accomplished speaker Nancy Grayson presenting on Jewish Genealogical Research. See inside for more details.

As usual, if you have comments, suggestions, or material for publication, please let us know at suggestions@ccgstexas.org.

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Previous Meetings

09 June Field Trip - San Antonio (Tuesday)



The field trip started at 9:30 AM in front of the Alamo Chapel. CCGS members stopped for photos at the door to the Alamo Chapel, then entered the chapel and went into the sacristy. There a docent relayed the history of the sacristy and its use as a refuge by the women and children trapped inside the Alamo during the final battle. We were also told about the discovery of frescoes on the walls of the sacristy which were discovered during stabilization work undertaken in 2000 to preserve the Alamo Chapel. Afterwards we toured the new Collections Center which houses artifacts from the era of Spanish colonization of the New World and Texas, and items which were discovered in and around the Alamo grounds, or which were related to people at the Alamo, or the history of it afterwards. The largest collection is the Phil Collins collection, which included items spanning the history of the Alamo up to its portrayal in pop culture. Unfortunately one gallery was closed while we were there which had artifacts related to the actual siege and battle. Around 11:45 we walked to Schilo's Deli for lunch.



Simone Hierholzer, Chris Parma, Melisa Parma, Lynne' Voigt, Wendel Voigt *Image: W. Voigt*

- Summary extracted from the meeting minutes by Chris Parma, CCGS Secretary.

18 July Field Trip - Austin (Saturday)



Members met at 9:45 AM in front of the Bullock Museum, and began touring when the museum opened at 10 AM. About 45 minutes were spent touring the ground floor with most of the time spent examining the hull of the *La Belle*, a ship from the La Salle expedition to Texas that sank along the Texas Gulf Coast. Artifacts from the *La Belle* were viewed as well as a short video describing the discovery and preservation of the ship and its contents.



Tina LaFreniere, Chris Parma, Melissa Parma, Wendel Voigt. Not pictured: John LaFreniere. *Image: W.Voigt*

The rest of the first floor largely focused on the prehistory and then colonization of Texas: the Native American tribes and where they were located; and European colonization efforts. Also on the first floor was a special exhibit on Texas festivals, including Wurstfest in New Braunfels and Fiesta in San Antonio.



Members continued on to the second floor and looked at Texas during the Mexican era, the arrival of Anglo-American settlers, the Texas Revolution and continued on up to Texas in the early

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Twentieth Century. The second floor also housed an exhibit about the restoration of Texas courthouses, including the Comal County courthouse. Afterwards we walked to Scholz Garten for lunch.

- Summary extracted from the meeting minutes by Chris Parma, CCGS Secretary.

August - Board of Directors Meeting

There was no general membership meeting in the month of August.



08 September - Picnic (Tuesday)

Members gathered at the Landa Park Pavilion 16 next to the Landa mill race at 6:00pm, socializing while the food was set up. CCGS provided barbecue chicken, sausage, potato salad, and beans from Granzin's Barbecue, and members brought a variety of desserts to share. A total of twenty-three people attended the picnic.

Tommy Daum led everyone in a blessing before the meal. As people finished eating, CCGS president Wendel Voigt conducted a brief meeting. Lynn Thompson updated everyone on the status of the First Founders reprint. She also reported that CCGS still had a large number of publications that needed to be given away, or discarded, since the Sophienburg no longer wanted to store them.

Director of Genealogy, Tina LaFreniere, described the research that she did on Theodor Zeisig Specht, answering a genealogy request from Melody Specht Kelly. Subsequently, Melody Kelly donated $200 to the CCGS scholarship fund in appreciation of the help that Tina had given.

The picnic finished up around 7:40 with members cleaning up the pavilion and taking home leftovers.

- Summary extracted from the meeting minutes by Chris Parma, CCGS Secretary.

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Upcoming Meetings

13 October Meeting



Joe Grist, a Wurstfest Opa, will present on the “Founding of Wurstfest”. Joe had a front row seat at the founding of Wurstfest. His father, Dr. Ed A. Grist, a long-time veterinarian and the meat inspector for the City of New Braunfels, started the event as a small party to compare and honor locally produced traditional sausages. This year marks the 65th annual Wurstfest which will cover 10 days and will see over 200,000 attendees.

If you are not able to attend, you can view the meeting remotely via Zoom at https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3932626685?omn=85249016167 Meeting ID: 393 262 6685.

10 November Meeting



Nancy Grayson will give a presentation via live video on Jewish Genealogical Research. Many families from Germany, Mexico, and Spain have some Jewish ancestry that immigrated to Texas and assimilated into the non-Jewish population. Topics will include unique resources and traditions to help with anyone’s Jewish genealogy.
If you are not able to attend, you can view the meeting remotely via Zoom at https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3932626685?omn=85249016167 Meeting ID: 393 262 6685.

Professor Nancy Grayson (Adelson) is Co-President, Co-Program Chair, Library Chair of the Southern Arizona Jewish Genealogical Society (SAJGS), and founding member, Past President, Past 1st VP, Past Program Chair & JOWBR Chair for Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State; Past German Jewish Special Interest Group (GerSIG) Director, IAJGS Conference Program Co-Chair, IAJGS-International Jewish Genealogy Month Chair. She researched and discovered 11,000+ members for her Sephardic, Eastern & Western European families to early-1700’s. She wrote a book about her father, “A New York City Boy.” Nancy presented for 10 previous International Association of Jewish Genealogical Society (IAJGS) Conferences. She lectures on genealogy-regionally & on Holland America Cruise Line. She was a tenured professor in Washington State and moved to Arizona four years ago. Nancy received IAJGS Salutes, Washington State Genealogical Society & JGSWS Outstanding Community Service Awards.

09 December Meeting



The Comal County Genealogy Society will wrap up the year with the annual party and new officer installation. This is a potluck event, so please bring a food item (entree, sides, or dessert) to share with everyone. CCGS will provide plates, utensils, cups, and drinks. Feel free to discuss your recent genealogy successes.

January - Board of Directors Meeting

There is no general membership meeting in the month of January.

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News

New Braunfels: The First Founders Reprint

The definitive two volume set of *New Braunfels: The First Founders* by Everett Fey is out of print. There are no remaining original copies to be sold, and the publisher is no longer in business. The family of Everett Fey, the Sophienburg Archives, and the Comal County Genealogy Society (together the copyright owners) are collaboratively working to bring this classic into print again. The following work has been done or planned to be done:

- ☑ An existing copy was sacrificed for scanning by having its binding removed.
- ☑ Both volumes have been scanned into PDF format (over 1000 pages!)
- ☑ Pictures used in the book were located in the Sophienburg and are to be scanned.
- ☐ The scanned pictures will be inserted into the PDF files. This will provide the best print picture quality.
- ☐ A new publisher/printer is being sought which can use the PDF files to produce the books.

UPDATE: CCGS and the Sophienburg are working to insert higher resolution versions of the pictures into the PDF files. These pictures were found in the Sophienburg in a box related to the book. After the prior graphics design company backed out of the project, Lynn Thompson found a new graphics design service, Phil Wolfe Graphic Design, that agreed to take on the project. They provided a 100 page sample with the inserted images. After the Board of Directors reviewed the samples provided, the Board approved the $508 invoice to finish the work. Once completed, we will have a print ready PDF of both volumes of the book with the sharper images. We are currently looking into printing houses that can use the PDFs to print the books on demand.

2027 High School Scholarship

The Board of Directors has once again approved a $1000 scholarship to a local Comal County high school senior. This will be the third scholarship given by CCGS. You can see the scholarship brochure and application at https://www.ccgstexas.org/scholarship/ If you know a High School Senior, make sure they know about it.

2027 Field Trips

As you can tell by the write-ups earlier, while good and very informative, the 2026 field trips were sparsely attended. In order to have field trips next year that appeal to more of the membership, we are asking for your help. If you know of something in the Comal County area that would make an interesting field trip, please let us know at footsteps@ccgstexas.org. While new experiences are always welcome, if the group has not visited a place in a while, it will be considered as well. Please send in your ideas!

Tall Ship *Elyssa*

Some may find this interesting about the Tall Ship *Elyssa* which is usually found at the immigration museum in Galveston. https://youtu.be/xJc31T2hKIU?is=B6c-Qe8uc1-RmWZ5 *Submitted by Connie Krause*

Genealogy Events

The next two pages are a flyer from the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society on their big upcoming event.

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San Antonio
GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
founded 1959

PRESENTS

Fall Seminar 2026

Saturday, October 17, 2026 · 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Coker Methodist Church — Life Fellowship Center
14630 Wurzbach Parkway, San Antonio, Texas 78216 · Free parking





FEATURING

Lisa Louise Cooke

Host of the Genealogy Gems Podcast · Author of *The Genealogist's Google Toolbox*

Lisa has been the featured speaker at hundreds of full-day seminars over the past 18 years, at RootsTech, the National Genealogical Society, Who Do You Think You Are? Live in London, MyHeritage Live in Oslo, and as keynote in Sydney, Ottawa, and at Brigham Young University. She produces the Genealogy Gems Podcast and a YouTube channel with more than 35,000 subscribers, has written five books, and has contributed over fifty columns to *Family Tree Magazine*. She is known for practical, immediately usable research strategies — and for making them fun.

Four sessions. One full day. Program and notebook provided.

Schedule for the Day

8:00 a.m.	Registration *Pick up your name tag and program*
9:00 a.m.	Welcome, Pledges & Opening Remarks *Door prize drawing #1*
9:15 a.m.	Introduction of Lisa Louise Cooke
9:20 a.m.	SESSION ONE **How to Reopen and Work a Genealogical Cold Case**
10:20 a.m.	Morning Break *Snacks available*
10:40 a.m.	Door Prizes #2
10:45 a.m.	SESSION TWO **Make AI Your Personal Genealogy Assistant**
12:00 p.m.	Lunch *Included with registration*
1:00 p.m.	Door Prizes #3
1:10 p.m.	SESSION THREE **The Genealogist's Google Search Methodology**
2:10 p.m.	Afternoon Break
2:20 p.m.	SESSION FOUR **How to Organize All This Genealogy Stuff!**
3:20 p.m.	Closing Remarks *Quilt prize awarded; please turn in your survey*
4:00 p.m.	Adjourn

SAGHS MEMBER
$70
Includes all four sessions and lunch

NON-MEMBER
$85
Includes all four sessions and lunch

REGISTER ONLINE
SANANTONIOGENEALOGY.ORG/2026SEMINAR
OR CALL DUTY LIBRARIAN (210) 342-5242
TO REGISTER BY PHONE

Silent auction, baskets, and door prizes throughout the day — tickets sold on site only; please bring cash or your checkbook.

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San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society

2026 Fall Seminar — Registration by Mail

Saturday, October 17, 2026 · Coker Methodist Church, Life Fellowship Center

1. Who is attending

One line per person. Every registration includes all four sessions and lunch. Photocopy this form if you need more than four lines.

	Full name as it should appear on the name tag	RATE		LUNCH			Amount
		Member $70	Non-member $85	RB	TK	VG	
1		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	$
2		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	$
3		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	$
4		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	$

Lunch choices **RB** — Roast Beef Sandwich · **TK** — Roasted Turkey Breast Sandwich *(both on multigrain wheat with lettuce and tomato; chips, pickle, chocolate chip cookie)* · **VG** — Vegan Very Veggie Sandwich *(spinach, guacamole, hummus, tomato, red onion, cucumber on an everything bun; fruit cup and chips)*

2. Who we should contact about this registration

NAME _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ FOOD ALLERGIES OR DIETARY NEEDS _____

☐ Yes, send me SAGHS news, event announcements, and genealogy research tips by email.

3. Where did you first hear about this seminar?

☐ SAGHS E-Blast ☐ SAGHS Newsletter ☐ SAGHS Library
☐ Facebook ☐ Newspaper ☐ A friend or another society
☐ Billboard ☐ Podcast ☐ Radio

TOTAL ENCLOSED

Number of registrants _____ × the rate for each

$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO

San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society

Hand this form and your check to the duty librarian, or mail both to:

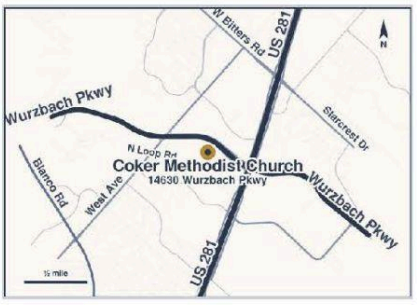
SAGHS · 911 Melissa Drive · San Antonio, TX 78213

Please note

Forms and payment must be received by **Sunday, October 11, 2026** so that we can submit the final meal count. Registrations received after that date will be accepted at the regular rate, but a lunch cannot be guaranteed.

You may also register online at sanantoniogenealogy.org/2026seminar.

Questions: Charles Stricklin · (210) 799-6810 · vicepres@txsaghs.org · txsaghs.org



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Membership

Benefits of Membership

Your membership in the Comal County Genealogy Society provides:

- Meetings featuring guest presenters on a variety of genealogy-related topics.
- The September Picnic in Landa Park, which includes catered food.
- Access to the *Family Footsteps* published in February, June, and October.
- FREE access to the Sophienburg Archives with the CCGS' collection of local family histories and important research materials.
- Access to the CCGS computer at the Sophienburg Archives with Ancestry.com & Fold3.com subscriptions.
- Provides financial support for CCGS ongoing obligations as well as to our High School Scholarship program.

Members at the Prinz and Baron level will be recognized in the *Family Footsteps*.
Members at the Prinz level will have a research item donated to CCGS in their honor (with their name inscribed) and placed in the Research Room at the Sophienburg Archives.

New Members

Vanessa Miller
Robin Skeen

Premium Members

Stephen Beisser - Baron
Bryden Jr. & Marcia K Moon - Baron

How to Join

To join, or renew membership to the Comal County Genealogy Society you can go to https://ccgstexas.org/membership online, or use the form at the end of this document.

Donations

If you would like to make a donation to CCGS or the CCGS Scholarship fund, you can go online to https://www.ccgstexas.org/donate/.

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2026 Calendar

Meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. on the second Tuesday of February, March, April, May, September, October, November and December. Unless indicated otherwise, all General Meetings are held at the **Emmie Seele Faust Building** at the **Sophienburg Archives**, 401 W. Coll St.,
New Braunfels, Texas 78130.

New Members and Visitors are always welcome.



January	Board of Directors meeting only
February 10	General Meeting - Ruth Foreman - “Naming the Dead” field trip
March 10	General Meeting - Sally Blacksmith - Daughters of the Republic of Texas
April 14	General Meeting - Kaye Wykoff - Organizing your Genealogy
May 12	General Meeting -Tina LaFreniere - Benefits of Attending a Genealogical Conference
June 09	Field Trip - The Alamo in San Antonio.
July 18	Field Trip - Bob Bullock Texas History Museum, Austin (Note: a Saturday)
August	Board of Directors meeting only
September 08	CCGS Picnic - 6:00pm to 9:00pm at Pavilion #16 in Landa Park
October 13	General Meeting - Joe Grist - Founding of Wurstfest
November 10	General Meeting - Nancy Grayson - Jewish Genealogical Research
December 08	New Officer Installation and Holiday Party

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Organization

Purpose

The purpose of the Comal County Genealogy Society is to create, foster and maintain interest in history and genealogy and to work with other organizations to preserve historical & genealogical publications and records.



Image: V. Callier

2026 Officers and Directors (left to right): **Wendel Voigt,** President & Director of Footsteps; **Christopher Parma,** Secretary; **Lynn Thompson**, Director of Publications & Past-President; **Mary Simone Hierholzer**, Treasurer & Director of Membership; **Tina LaFreniere**, Director of Genealogy; **Tommy Daum**, Director of Publicity.

Board of Directors

Officers

Office	**Officer**
President	Wendel Voigt
Vice President	*vacant*
Treasurer	Simone Hierholzer
Secretary	Chris Parma
Past President	Lynn Thompson

Directors

Director of…	**Director**
Footsteps	Wendel Voigt
Genealogy	Tina LaFreniere
Membership	Simone Hierholzer
Public Relations	Tommy Daum
Publications	Lynn Thompson

All Officers and Directors are members of the Board of Directors.

Committee Chairpersons

Welcome / Greeting	Simone Hierholzer
Cemetery	Connie Krause
Archives/History	*vacant*
Library	Lynn Thompson
IT / Website	Wendel Voigt

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Find Us on the Internet

Website

https://ccgsTexas.org

Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/CCGSTexas

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/ccgstexas/

Footsteps Contributors

DIRECTOR OF FOOTSTEPS
Wendel Voigt

EDITOR
Wendel Voigt

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Simone Hierholzer, Tina LaFreniere, Lynn Thompson, Chris Parma, Lynne' Voigt, Connie Krause.

ATTENTION!
If you have an interesting poem, story, translation from a newspaper, or article about your ancestors, or your research has turned up something that you think is interesting, please consider sending it to us to publish in the "Family Footsteps." Persons submitting published materials will be listed as a contributing editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions as necessary. Please make sure all submissions are either ready in rich text format or camera-ready.
Please send your submission to footsteps@ccgstexas.org

Online Membership



After September 1st, you can renew your membership for 2026 by either filling out the Membership Application found at the end of this publication or you can go to https://ccgstexas.org/membership to renew online.

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Membership Application

Comal County Genealogy Society
P. O. Box 310190, New Braunfels, TX 78131-0190

Name:_____
Family Members:_____
Street:_____ Phone: _____
City:_____ State:_____ Zip+4_____
Maiden Name:_____ Email:_____

MEMBERSHIPS (January - December)

Individual: $20.00 ( ) New ( ) Renewal

Family: $25.00 ( ) New ( ) Renewal

Baron: $50.00 ( ) New ( ) Renewal

Prinz:* $100.00 ( ) New ( ) Renewal

*A Research item will be donated to CCGS in your honor (with your name inscribed) and placed in the Research Room at the Sophienburg Archives.

DONATIONS

CCGS Scholarship $_____

TOTAL Included $_____

Membership includes a subscription to "Family Footsteps" newsletter, free queries, use of the Research Room at the Sophienburg Archives, and interesting programs at our meetings. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday in the months of FEB, MAR, APR, MAY, SEP, OCT, NOV, and DEC. JUN and JUL are reserved for field trips to a local site and to sites in nearby counties. The SEP meeting is often a group picnic. (Board meetings are held in JAN and AUG.)

Meetings are held at the Sophienburg Archives, 401 West Coll St, New Braunfels, TX.

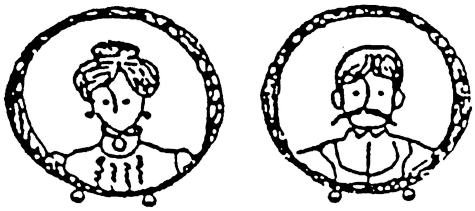
Please mail this application to the address given above and your check made payable to *Comal County Genealogy Society*.

I/We are researching the following surnames:

_____
_____
_____
_____

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Comal County Genealogy Society
P. O. Box 310190
New Braunfels, TX 78131-0190

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for mailing